

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 EUR-25 IO-12 OMB-01 DPW-01 AID-20

RSR-01 /127 W

----- 036045

O 250950 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2200

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9276

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJ: SITREP FOR MAY 24, 1973

HEREWITH REPEAT OF AMCONSUL CANTHO MESSAGE 0353 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L C A N T H O 0353

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR MAY 24, 1973

1. SUMMARY: ANOTHER DAY OF RELATIVELY LIGHT ACTION WAS REPORTED IN MR IV. NEW MILITARY TACTICS IN DINH TUONG HAVE RESULTED IN HIGHER VC/NVA CASUALTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: MR IV REPORTED RELATIVELY LIGHT ACTION MAY 23 FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE DAY. TWENTY- ONE VC/NVA- INITIATED INCIDENTS OCCURRED, INCLUDING FIVE GROUND ASSAULTS, 11 ATTACKS BY FIRE, FOUR HARASSMENTS, AND ONE TERRORIST ACT. CHUONG THIEN, THE SITE OF THREE GROUND ATTACKS, AGAIN REPORTED THE MOST ACTION. DINH TUONG AND AN XUYEN ALSO SAW MODERATE FIGHTING. RVNA LOSSES WERE 20 DEAD, 73 WOUNDED, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND TWO MISSING. ARVN SPOKESMEN CLAIMED 113 VC/ NVA DEAD, AN UNUSUALLY HIGH FIGURE FOR A DAY OF LIGHT FIGHTING, INDICATING ARVN PROBABLY TOOK THE FIGHTING INITIATIVE.

3. GVN ACTIVITIES: DINH TUONG PROVINCE CHIEF COL CHUNG VAN GONG MAY 15 INITIATED NEW TACTICS WHICH APPARENTLY HAVE RESULTED IN A SHARP INCREASE IN VC/ NVA CASUALTIES. HIS " DONG KHOI" CAMPAIGN, WHICH WILL RUN TO THE END OF MAY, IS BASED ON TAKING RF/ PF OUT OF FIXED POSITIONS AND SCATTERING THEM IN SMALL GROUPS TO BETTER INTERCEPT VC/ NVA UNITS. IN

ITS FIRST WEEK, " DONG KHOI" CLAIMED 36 VC/ NVA DEAD AGAINST ONLY FIVE RVNAF KILLED AND 38 WOUNDED. BONG, A KIN AND PROTEGE OF MR IV COMMANDER MGEN NBUYEN VINH NGHI, ADOPTED THE TACTIC WHEN HIS CHIEF COMPLAINED OF THE UNFAVORABLE CASUALTY RATIOS AGAINST THE GVN SINCE THE CEASEFIRE.

4. SELBATED PROVINCE COMMENT: VINH BINH PROVINCE AUTHORITIES MAY NOT BE REPORTING ALL LOCAL VC MILITARY ACTIVITY TO MR IV. THE VC RECENTLY OVERRAN TWO OUTPOSTS IN DAYLIGHT HOURS AND APPARENTLY REPORTS OF NEITHER INCIDENT REACHED REGION HEAD-QUARTERS. ONE OUTPOST WAS IN SOC RUONG HAMLET ONLY FOUR MILES NORTH OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, PHU VINH. THE VC HAVE HEAVILY PRESSURED THE VINH BINH KHMER DISTRICTS SINCE THE CEASEFIRE ( CAN THO 0339). MR IV COMMANDER MG N NGUYEN VINH NGHI CHASTIZED VINH BINH PROVINCE CHIEF COL NGUYEN HUU KIEM FOR LOW HES RATINGS AT THE MAY 11 TAOR MEETING. THE BELEAGURED KIEM HAS OTHER WOES. THE SAIGON INSPECTORATE MAY 14 ( THE SAME DAY THE VC OVERRAN THE SOC RUONG OUTPOST) SUMMONED HIM TO EXPLAIN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THREE MILLION PIASTERS FROM THE PROVINCE TREASURY.

BARNES UNQUOTE  
WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

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